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8 May 1958

LEBANON

- I. Maneuvering over presidential succession has reached fever pitch.
 - A. General Shihab's refusal to accept Chamoun's offer to step down and back the general for the presidency makes it almost certain that Chamoun's backers will introduce second term constitutional amendment, possibly this week.
 - B. Pro-UAR opposition elements arming and will seize upon declaration of Chamoun's intentions as opportunity to stir up disturbances.
 - C. If General Shihab, who not enthusiastic about Chamoun, takes effective action disorders probably can be controlled.
 - D. Chamoun receiving financial aid and military equipment from Iraq, Jordan, Iran, and Turkey.
 - E. Owner of Beirut Soviet-subsidized anti-Western newspaper assassinated. Possibility of retaliation against pro-Chamoun journalists.
 - F. During the past month two UAR teams reported sent to assassinate Chamoun, Prime Minister Sulh and Foreign Minister Malik.
 - G. The Lebanese Government is anxious to be able to announce publicly "substantial" US grant aid next fiscal year.
 1. Malik has suggested privately that the US grant Lebanon \$25 million for the "initial years" of a 6 year development program in order to allay criticism over US aid to Lebanon.

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Public Works Minister, in what may be domestic political maneuver, says government will ask US for \$170 million.
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